Increase in number of judges

39. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Wil1 the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to increase the number of judges for speedy disposal of cases; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to increase the number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, *vide* its judgement of 21st March, 2002 in All India Judges' Association & Others *Vs.* Union of India & Others, has directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing ratio of 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 Judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years. Central Government have addressed the State Governments for taking necessary action to increase the Judge strength as per the direction of the Supreme Court. As regards directives to be complied by the Central Government in respect of Union Territories, necessay action has been initiated.

Family courts

40. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked all States and Union Territories to send proposals for establishment of family courts in each district;

(b) if so, the response received by Government from State Governments in this regard;

(c) the number of family courts functioning at present in the country and the number of cases disposed of by them in the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which the setting up of new family courts will reduce burden on subordinate courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women in its Fith Report on "Functioning of Family Courts" has recommended that steps should be taken to set up Family Courts in every district of the country. On the basis of recommendation made by the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of